

Message Text

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ORIGIN NRC-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 OES-09 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10
IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 SOE-02 DODE-00
DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 /116 R

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EA/J: R KILPATRICK
ACDA: N HOLLINGSWORTH
-----004246 132120Z /70
P 132002Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 177021

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJECT: SPENT FUEL STORAGE CAPACITY

REFERENCE: TOKYO 10801

1. NRC DIVISION OF OPERATING REACTORS HAS PROVIDED
FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON REFTEL.

2. ON FULL CORE STORAGE CAPACITY OF U.S. OPERATING PLANTS,
IT IS TRUE THAT NRC DOES NOT REQUIRE UTILITIES TO MAINTAIN
A FULL CORE STORAGE AVAILABILITY, BECAUSE ITS IMPACT IS
CONSIDERED TO BE PRIMARILY ECONOMIC AND IS THEREFORE MAINLY
AN OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATION. AT PRESENT, THE MAJORITY OF
PLANTS HAVE THE FULL CORE STORAGE CAPACITY AND MOST OF THEM
ARE FURTHER EXPANDING THEIR FUEL STORAGE CAPACITY. FOR
THOSE PLANTS WITHOUT FULL CORE STORAGE CAPACITY, ALL ARE IN
THE PROCESS OF EXPANDING THEIR FUEL STORAGE FACILITIES.
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NRC RECOGNIZES THAT THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES RELATED
TO OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE REDUCTION AND THEREFORE ENCOURAGES
MAINTENANCE OF A FULL CORE STORAGE CAPACITY.

3. ON FULL VESSEL INSPECTION, ASME SECTION XI CODE ALLOWS
REACTOR VESSEL INSPECTION TO BE PERFORMED AT OR NEAR THE
END OF 10 YEARS INSPECTION INTERVAL. THE MAIN REASON FOR

DEFERRING THIS INSPECTION IS NOT BECAUSE THERE IS NO FULL CORE STORAGE CAPACITY; RATHER, IT IS CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE TO POSTPONE THIS INSPECTION UNTIL THE END OF THE 10-YEAR INTERVAL TO BE CONCURRENTLY PERFORMED WITH THE INSPECTION OF REACTOR VESSEL INTERNALS.

4. ON NOZZLE AND FLANGE INSPECTION, ASME SECTION XI CODE SPECIFIES THAT EVERY 3-1/3 YEARS, A MINIMUM OF 25% OF ALL NOZZLE-TO-SHELL AND FLANGE WELDS MUST BE INSPECTED SO THAT, AFTER 10 YEARS, ALL THE NOZZLE-TO-SHELL WELDS AND FLANGE WELDS WILL BE INSPECTED AT LEAST ONCE, NOT, REPEAT NOT, ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS AS STATED IN REFTEL. THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF TIMES INSPECTED PER 10-YEAR INTERVAL BETWEEN THE VESSEL AND NOZZLE AND FLANGE INSPECTION. ALL WELDS REQUIRED TO BE INSPECTED ARE INSPECTED AT LEAST ONCE DURING THE 10-YEAR INTERVAL.

5. NRC REQUESTS EMBASSY PASS ABOVE INFO TO JAPANESE SOONEST FOR CLARIFICATION, WITH INFO COPY TO HAYAKAWA, STA. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STORAGE, NUCLEAR ENERGY, FUELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE177021
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JDLAFFLEUR, JR.
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780287-1057
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780763/aaaacavq.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3040da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NRC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 10801
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2017010
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPENT FUEL STORAGE CAPACITY
TAGS: TECH, JA
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3040da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014